SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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C/O
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19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies,
Information Offices in
foreign countries.

Photo : HONG CHI

Preserve NATURE'S SPRING
Safeguard YOUTH'S LIFE

SPRING THROUGHOUT VIET NAM'S HISTORY

SPRING is an asset of Nature. In Spring the weather is mild, the sun is warm and the rain is fresh... It is a bounty for men, animals and plants in our country.

Talking of Spring, the Vietnamese are accustomed to think of the Hung kings, the founding Fathers of their nation:

"Whether you go up hill or down dale.

Remember our sires' anniversary on the tenth of the third month."

In their long history of national construction and defence, the Vietnamese have known Spring thunders of Nature and also Spring thunders of fighters against aggression whose behaviour since time immemorial has been guided by this axiom: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

The Hung kings were credited with the founding of the nation. It was in Spring that Van Lang state was established.

On the Trung Sisters fell the privilege of leading the first all-people resistance for national independence. Their insurrection marked a turning-point in the establishment of a national tradition of indomitability. And it significantly erupted in Spring of the year 40 A.D.

In Spring 248, Lady Trieu, the 19-year old glory of Thanh Hoa led the whole people to "ride the hurricane, mount the waves, behead the shark on the high seas, drive out the Ngo invaders, reconquer the land and shatter alien rule instead of bowing to it."

In Spring 542, Ly Bon again mobilized the entire people, clobbered the aggressors within three months and repelled two enemy counter-offensives. Two years after, also in Spring, he proclaimed the country's independence, and himself king Ly Nam De of Van Xuan state (or Ten Thousand Springs state).

In Spring 939, following the historic Bach Dang battle, Ngo Quyen restored national independence after over thousand years of foreign domination.

It was the second Spring revival of our nation, ushering in a long era of independence and sovereignty. In the following centuries, our history has recorded many Springs of people's war.

In Spring 981, Le Hoan at the head of the army and people of Dai Co Viet defeated the Tong invaders at Chi Lang and Bach Dang.

In Spring 1076, the army and people of Dai Viet spent their Tet in a grim and daring offensive under general Ly Thuong Kiet against foreign aggressors.

Three Springs of the Thirteenth Century (1258, 1285, 1288) were triumphant fighting Springs during which the Mongol invaders, notorious for their cruelty, their combat skill unmatched in Asia and Europe and their conquest of nearly half the world bit the dust.

In Spring 1418, on the second day of the Mau Tuat Lunar New Year (February 7, 1418), Le Loi, Nguyen Trai and other insurgents unfurled the standard of revolt at Lam Son and turned a mass uprising into a national liberation war throughout ten gruelling years, made justice prevail over violence and humanity over brutality and kicked the Ming invaders.

Spring 1789 witnessed the Ngoc Hoi and Dong Da victories: it was the Spring of King Quang Trung Nguyen Hue's lightning campaign, which wiped out 200,000 Tsing troops within a week, foiled the last aggressive war launched by foreign feudalists against Viet Nam and was eventually glorified by a Spring festival in liberated Thang Long.

In Viet Nam's traditions there is a Spring tradition: Spring of all people's uprisings, Spring of people's war offensives. From a Spring of Nature, Viet Nam's Spring has gone down in History. The Vietnamese not only celebrate Springs of Peace with New Year poles, crackers, sticky rice cakes, they also know how to organize Tets of combat and of victory by forgetting about Tet or enjoying it beforehand to assail the enemy during Tet and translate into deeds the great national motto:

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."!

The NLF is stronger than ever before

Editor's Note:

"**Guardian**", independent radical newsweekly (in New York), *on December 26, 1970 carried an article by its staff correspondent, Wilfred Burchett, entitled "10th anniversary of National Liberation Front" of which we give below some excerpts:*

THE US expeditionary force expected to crush the NLF in a matter of months, but a little more than three years later—after having built up US forces to over a half million men (the maximum possible without imposing general mobilization within the US); using every sort of weapon (except nuclear devices) of the US artillery, Air Force and Navy as well as the latest innovations in chemical warfare; and having used up a lot of top-ranking generals—the US was forced to meet in Paris with NLF delegates on an equal basis for official discussions on how to get out of the war.

More than five years after the commitment of US combat troops in Viet Nam, the US was still in Paris (having used up a couple of presidents, some Defense secretaries and Paris delegation heads) pleading that the "plight" of US pilots shot down over North Viet Nam took priority over any other question concerning the war in Viet Nam.

In the meantime, *the NLF had blossomed into a Provisional Revolutionary Government, recognized by 28 countries* besides having five Information Bureaus with semi-diplomatic status in western European countries.

While there have been a score of coups and counter-coups in Saigon during the course of US intervention, with a dozen different prime ministers and heads of state of the puppet administration, the NLF has prestige and popularity have grown during the long years of struggle.

Could anyone have believed that when Washington sent the first US troops to Da Nang more than five years ago that it would be sitting down today for peace discussions with the NLF?

NIXON PLUNGES DEEPER

If Nixon had not been so stupid, he could have retrieved some US prestige by withdrawing from Viet Nam, ascribing the disaster to his predecessor. Instead he has plunged in still deeper, trying to march backwards out of the quagmire by instituting a new variant of "special war": by trying to use US arms and dollars to maintain another Diem-type regime, which is the ultimate aim of "Vietnamization." This strategy will never succeed. Nixon is mired up to his eyeballs and he is now hopelessly ensnared by his own duplicity: trying to assure the American public that the US is withdrawing from Viet Nam while trying to prove the contrary to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime in Saigon.

On its 10th anniversary the NLF is stronger than ever before and its popular support grows daily, especially in the political sphere. Nixon denies this publicly, but he implicitly admits this by the CIA's program for assassinating NLF cadres (which has failed) and by a mobilization of American social scientists to find a strategy for outwitting the NLF.

Despite public pressure in the US, Nixon does not want to reduce US armed forces in VietNam. And further, if he does this—even before a full US withdrawal—the present Saigon regime is likely to fall.

A brilliant commander

PHAM Van Giai, deputy battalion commander of the PLAF, is a little man with a soft voice. The hard years of his boyhood have left deep marks on his look and his dark brown complexion which has taken a deeper shade in six years of his combatant life.

It was in the simultaneous offensives and widespread uprisings in Spring 1968 which marked a tremendous growth of the South Vietnamese resistance against US aggression that Pham Van Giai distinguished himself as an able fighter and commander. The attack on the Quang Trung military training school of the puppet army indicated the beginning of this maturation.

After three hours of bloody fighting against 16,000 enemy troops in a military compound four kilometres on each side, a group under Hai's command was ordered to give cover to the big unit's withdrawal by drawing the bulk of the enemy forces to the outer perimetre. It was already down when his group arrived at the appointed place after crossing six barbed wire fences and several defence moles. As expected, the enemy sent a whole plus-sized battalion after Giai. The liberation fighters quickly moved in to a bamboo grove in the open field about 60 yards from the forward lines of their pursuers, and regrouped to give battle.

The combat trenches they dug had hardly reached their knees when the enemy showed up no more than 50 yards away. Waiting until the enemy were less than 20 yards off, Giai and his companions Cuong, Xuyen and Hong opened up at the same time with their AK carbines. Struck by surprise, the enemy took to their heels, leaving behind more than 20 dead. They rallied in an open field and rained mortar and M. 79 shells on the bamboo grove. Seeing no riposte, at about 7 p.m. the whole battalion closed in, completely surrounding Giai's group.

In their combat trenches, the liberation fighters, their fingers firm on the triggers, calmly waited for Giai's order.

"B.40, fire on the left!" Giai's command drowned the crackling of the enemy fire. He raised his tankbuster and let off a shot at the group of puppet soldiers moving up about fifteen yards away. Before the orange smoke had dispersed, he turned to the right and fired a second.

Enemy artillery from the Quang Trung military school furious pounded the fortifications of the liberation fighters, churning up the soil before them. After the firing stopped, two helicopters lumbered in, dropping grenades and raking the PLAF position with machinegunfire.

A grenade fell only three yards before Giai, throwing him on his back. Overcoming his pain, Giai got up and released a burst of his AK at the nearest helicopter. It caught fire. The second soared up and made away.

The enemy again rushed on, in lateral lines, hurling grenades and firing hysterically. From the liberation forces' trenches, the machinegun manned by Ngan also spat out long bursts at the advancing enemy. As for those armed with AK carbines, they sniped at the puppet soldiers one by one. Pinned down by the PLAF's withering counter-fire, the enemy regrouped beneath a bamboo grove in the field. With a tankbuster shell, Giai cut down a dozen of them. The remnants fled helter-skelter. Shortly afternoon, the enemy made two other assaults which were both repulsed with heavy losses for the assailants.

Infuriated, the puppet commanders attempted another assault at two p.m. Sheltering themselves behind the bodies of their own men, they moved up very cautiously. The PLAF fighters fired very sparingly. After emptying three AL clips, Giai knocked down two more enemy troops with his K.54 rifle. Seeing the confusion in the enemy lines, Giai told his fellow fighters: "Drive them out to the hill!"

Like insects in an ant hill suddenly flooded by water, the enemy troops flocked more and more to the hill. Giai sent a tank buster bullet into their ranks. No one was seen rising after the explosion.

Suddenly, a group of them who had been playing possum among the littering corpses sprang to their feet and rushed toward the PLAF position, their arms barking as they ran. Bullets whizzed overhead but the liberation fighters were in no hurry to return fire. The enemy commander roared at the top of his voice:

"The Viet Cong are all dead or wounded. Come and take them alive, boys!"

Not until they had come within 6 or 7 yards from the combat trench did Giai explode a B.40 shell, then a second one. Enemy soldiers fell by the dozens. The rest turned tail. The AK men picked them up one by one.

The enemy then laid a second barrage of artillery on the PLAF position. It lasted about half an hour, followed by a new assault. But like the previous ones, this ended in disorderly retreat with heavy casualties for the attackers.

The enemy made many more attempts but all of them were shattered by the steel-like defenders. After the 11th and also the last futile try, the remnants fled back to the Quang Trung camp.

After this battle, Giai was proposed for a Liberation Exploit Order, Second Class. In the following months he took part in many more battles, all crowned with success, and he was awarded two more Exploit Orders.

He became a bright star in the galaxy of heroes and heroines of the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh area.

LIFE TRIUMPHS OVER BRUTALITY

TWENTIETH CENTURY'S HELLS ON EARTH

AGAINST [South Vietnamese patriots, the US aggressors and their agents have set up a thick network of prisons with most sophisticated and horrible instruments of torture.

In large-scale inland jails with thousands of detainees such as Thu Duc, Chi Hoa, Tan Hiep, etc., huge prisons on high seas like Poulo Condor (Con Son), Phu Quoc Islands..., in all major cities such as My Tho, Quang Ngai, Thua Phu (Hue), Tay Ninh, Can Tho, Hoi An, Phu Loi, Da Nang..., a security, investigation and terror offices in district towns, the "Capital's Special Area," at the National Police Service and Central Intelligence Service..., the prisoners, men and women alike, especially political detainees, have day and night been suffering the most excruciating mental and bodily pains.

Up to now, more than 10,000 people have been deported to Poulo Condor, 80% of them political internees and patriots. The US-puppets have built there about 60 "tiger cages" of 3m long, 1.5m wide and 2m high each for men and women inmates. 500 political prisoners, more than a half among them women, have been jammed into such cages, each for 3 to 4 men, or 4 to 5 women.

The victims, ranging from young girls of 15 to elderly people of 70 including many blind ones, are chained all the year round, put to torture at any time, and fed on poor food, lacking water, air and sunlight. Poulo Condor executioners often say that "they have no appetite if they have not seen human blood shed and heard human beings moan."

The Phu Quoc jail, far from the inland, holds 25,000 prisoners of all kinds. Like Poulo Condor, it is watched by a huge force comprising 5 battalions of military guards, 3 mobile field battalions, 2 battalions of gaolers and 4 companies of civil guards, all placed under the command of notorious bravados. In addition, the prison is surrounded by 9 fences of barbed wire, 16 "electric fences," a 30 metre-wide mine field and walls higher than a man's head. In the centre of the prison, "tiger cages" of the Poulo Condor type have been built, each of 18m long and 5m wide capable of accommodating 100 people. There, the thugs have been applying such tortures as: burning the prisoners' bellies, pricking their genital organs or tongues with needles, poisoning their drinking water, drawing their blood with syringes till they collapse... The torturers also drive nails of 10cm long into the detainees' legs, and dozens of them die only an hour after the torture.

At the Can Tho prison, in 4 "tiger cages" with room for 300, the US-puppets keep 1,300 and sometimes 2,300 prisoners. This was witnessed by two doctors who represented the International Red Cross in a recent investigation tour of South Viet Nam. They got suffocated due to the lack of air when they tried to spend only 30 minutes in such a "tiger cage."

At the Chi Hoa jail, the US-puppets have invented a new kind of atrocity nicknamed "cinema." The prisoners, tied to a pillar, are faced with a powerful spotlight with a voltage of some thousand watts. At first, they feel numb, but later because of the intense heat their tongues and throats are parched, they have to open wide their mouths to breathe till they lose consciousness.

At the P-42 prison in the Saigon Zoo, the US-puppets built underground jails which led to the opening of tigers' cages.

The detainees were horribly frightened day and night by the beasts' roars and got killed by tigers let loose on them when the torturers wanted to liquidate them.

The prisoners are treated like animals in several jails. At the Phu Loi prison (in Binh Duong province) for instance, the US-puppets shut the detainees in open trenches and barbed wire cages. The trenches with a cement floor have the form of a square or rectangular box of 3m wide, 4m long and 3m high. They have no roof but the walls are elevated by a 1m-high live wire fence. Those who are to be confined in these boxes are tied up like frogs and dropped into them. The prisoners are also put in very narrow cages surrounded by barbed wire, similar to pig's cages, each large enough for one detainee. The latter must lie motionless inside the cage and in each of his movements his flesh is hurt by the barbs.

As for women prisoners, the US-puppets stop at no savage indignities to subdue them. At the jail in My Tho provincial capital, the hangmen of the "open arm" and military security organs are in the habit by stripping off female prisoners' clothes, pouring a chemical solution and introducing eels into their genitals. When the victims lose consciousness, they pull the eels out. Besides, the women prisoners are also put to the treatment called the "Trung Ho," (a kind of earth-worm, similar to a small viper). They are laid on their backs with their arms and legs tied on a bench. The torturers let worms into their privies. When they faint they insert a pill into their mouths. The drug drives the worms out and makes the victims come to. Then the torturers take another worm and repeat the operation. As a result, the victims' faces, hands and feet swell, and their bodies are covered with ulcers especially on their genitals, like lepers. 80% of them die two months after exposure.

At the Thu Duc prison, one of the biggest jails for women in South Viet Nam camouflaged under the "Thu Duc Re-education Centre" signboard, about 1,800 to 2,000 detainees, especially women political prisoners, experience similar horrors. All the year round, they are confined in narrow and dark cells without water for washing, and constantly brutalized and tortured. Under the command of chief torturer Duong Ngoc Minh, the thugs set hounds on them, spray the cells with smoke, lime or DDT powder, deface them with knives, slit their mouths and stab them to death and tread on their corpses.

The women detainees' lot at Tan Hiep jail is no less horrible. The hangmen here also use tear-gas hand grenades and souse the victims with liquid lime, killing dozens of them and send their bodies to unknown destinations.

In addition, cruel agents at every police station, military security service, "re education camp," jail and prison indulge in other barbarities such as: beat the prisoners up with cudgels, "submarine trip" (i.e. pour water into the victims' noses and mouths), trample upon their swollen bellies to force the water out, scar their genitals, thighs, breasts with burning cigarettes, "air trip" (i.e. hang the victims upside down), "tramway trip" (i.e. electricity torture), "acupuncture" (i.e. plant nails into their fingers and toes), pull out their fingers' or toes' nails, bump their heads against the wall, put them inside barrels and strike these with muffled hammers.

According to preliminary reports released by the "Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam," in 1969 the Saigon regime's prison population was estimated at 1,370,000 patriots and civilians. 170,000 people were killed, and over 800,000 injured as a result of brutalities and tortures, and more than 400,000 others crowded into over 1,000 prisons throughout South Viet Nam.

It is simply impossible to list all the atrocities, horrors and indignities inflicted on patriots illegally detained by the US-puppets in South Viet Nam.

The golden apricot blossom has opened
Under the cerulean welkin
In the morning the roses blush red,
The whole Spring is waiting for you.

This year, in the Tet shopping,
We won't buy any golden and silver paper(*)
Each household gets a fresh supply of rice
To feed the fighters, in case of a Tet offensive.

This Tet, old clothes are worn,
This Spring, there won't be any finery.
Mother has bought a roll of red cloth
And been sitting up nights sewing flags.

I've propped up our cranky cot,
With the money saved bought board for the shelter.
In the back garden, in the onion beds
I've grown a screen of trees.
No new shoes for our boy
But a pan of rubber tyre sandals,
And, carved out of a bit of wood, a rifle
And a hand grenade, for toys.

Your thought keeps awake
Mother and me far into the night.
Each time a gun pops
I rise and rush to the entrance.
Spring is expecting you
So are our people inside and outside the town.
Everything is ready
For another Mau Than Tet.

TAM HANG

(Excerpts from the paper of Hue *Save the Nation*)

(*) Paper money people used to burned on burials or anniversaries of death.

To Reconquer Spring

1427 years ago, our country Viet Nam was named Van Xuan – Ten Thousand Springs – which spelled out a deep aspiration of our forebears, of our whole nation since its birth, and of the entire mankind.

Viet Nam's national tradition is to spend a merry Tet and Spring not only by holding festivities, visiting ancestors' tombs, exchanging wishes, having a cosy time in family in the land of the forefathers, but also by organizing competitions of flowers, gold fishes, drawings, calligraphy, songs, rice-transplanting, ploughing, tree-planting...

Spring is therefore for the Vietnamese people, in peace time, an opportunity for reunion and merry-making, and, in time of patriotic wars, one for closer unity and tougher fighting. If fire is to be opened in spring days it is only with the aim of meeting an age-old national aspiration to preserve spring, to keep it for ever.

After a history of more than 4,000 Springs the Vietnamese nation has not achieved perennal peaceful Spring.

For the last quarter of century, the South Vietnamese people have not had a single Spring day in peace as they have been forced to resist the aggression of the French colonialists, then of the US imperialists.

They are fully aware that though Viet Nam's climate differ from that of the United States, Spring is common to both, and the American people enjoy it to the full just like the Vietnamese people.

But the Washington arms dealers have sent American boys to deprive Viet Nam of Spring. As result of which the American people themselves have had no Spring and American boys in the prime of youth have been losing their lives in a far off land.

The White House bosses want to monopolize Spring and to prevent the Vietnamese people from enjoying it. In furtherance of this objectionable aim, US imperialism has sent in troops and bombs to kill Vietnam's Spring, endeavoured to erase all verdure from the Vietnamese land through the use of toxic chemicals, and keep the trees budding while flowers are doomed to wither, in the midst of Spring.

And consequently the whole Vietnamese people, old and young, male and female, Catholic and Buddhist, of the plains and the mountains, are determined to battle under the NFL oriflamme, to recover Spring. With incredible stamina and increasing success they have been combating. The Mau Than (1968) Spring for example has been inscribed in red letters in the history of the Nation.

Spring is treasured by every South Vietnamese. For the sake of Spring – the Spring of Nature, of life, of the Nation – he is glad to make any sacrifice if this is to recover the Spring.

President Ho Chi Minh said: "Let's fight until the Yankees quit, and the puppets topple...

When North and South are reunited there will not be a happier Spring!"

(1969 New Year's Message)

The 14 million South Vietnamese are resolved to translate their venerated leader's wishes into deeds.

The Vietnamese people are entrusted by history with a sacred task – to defeat US imperialism – the world gendarme, the most brutal enemy of mankind – so as to secure Spring, not only for Viet Nam but also for the world.

To fulfill this national and international duty, all the people and armed forces of Viet Nam pledge:

To dash forward, charging in relentless offensives
For the peach flower to bloom in the vernal breeze,
For our native land, for our hamlets and villages
To have a perennial Spring.

TVX

The "White Tunic" Poem

To Nguyen Thi Chau or Miss X in **"The way he lived"** (Nguyen Van Troi's life story).

She is a lass of twenty Springs
With a face suffused with a vernal flush,
With raven plaits playing on pretty shoulders,
Eyes glowing with sweetness and glee.

Who'd believe such a frail girl
Has many a time nearly died from torture,
Her lithe body all slimy with blood,
But her soul, a snow-white lily.

A sheaf of leaflets, a few newspapers
Neatly rammed into her school case,
She hopped about, a lively bird
Carrying sunshine on its wings all over the city.
In Saigon wrapped in dark mantle of night

She was still seen sauntering through the desert streets
Her reading undone, she had to sit up late
Her eyes still smarting from lack of sleep, in the morning class.

Such was her routine day after day,
Then one day she was absent from the streets,

Her mother cried until her tears were mixed with blood,
Her boy friend's heart grieved, as if rent in halves

"Stop grieving, my sweet love,
My heart is for ever
The Party's and yours, o my comrade,
Like a fragant and fresh nenuphar,
Like a stream's water sparkling with Spring,
Like the apricot blossom fulgent with beads of dew

Like the White Tunic I shall wear
On the happiest day of our life, my dear!
I wrote the "White Tunic" Poem
In the cell, with my hands leaden with gyves,

Amidst clots of gore
My lilylike tunic remains unsullied.
Mother, set your mind at peace!
Tomorrow I'll hie myself home

And you won't be ashamed of me,
Daughter of father whose elevating example you used to exalt."

Four years in durance and countless tortures
Have steeled her mind and body.
I met her in the free areas

On the beach of white soft sand under a hyaline.

She hadn't put on the white dress
And gone hand in hand with her sweetheart to meet Uncle.
She was in her trim pajamas
Of a lustreless and austere black.

She stood there in the sun, the very image of sweetness,
Like a fay clad in clothes of a translucent white,
The light of which illumes
Each of my marches to the battlefront.

5-1965

LE ANH XUAN

Excerpts from Coconut Flower (Hoa Dua) select poems of Giai Phong Edition.

Crime and punishment

ON the night of December 31, 1970, students attacked and burnt 3 American military vehicles.

On the same day, 3 representatives of the Science Students on a 72-hour hunger strike sent a letter to Nixon in which they wrote: "The best way for the Americans to have peace with honour is to withdraw all foreign forces from South Viet Nam."

On January 1, 1971, 3 student representatives wrote a letter in their blood to Thieu, protesting against the US war of aggression and demanding that higher education establishments' autonomy be respected.

On January 3, students threw Molotov cocktails at a US army vehicle. Since December 12, 1970 students

Indomitable SAIGON

have mounted 7 attacks on US cars in retaliation for the recent murder of Nguyen Van Minh, a pupil.

The paper *Lap Truong* revealed that 4 US advisers had commanded 2,500 puppet policemen in a charge against Saigon students in Minh Mang Students' Quarters (on the night of January 2), wounding 29 of them.

Workers' unrest

WORKERS of the Day Da Weaving Trade Union founded a Committee of Action to demand a 30 per cent pay rise, an extra month pay and an extra hour for meal and rest. The workers of the Thanh Tuu factory decided to carry on their action by lying on the ground against the arbitrary dismissal of 150 workers.

Over 1,000 workers in the US residential quarters in Saigon-Gia Dinh began a drive for an extra month pay.

Unemployment

SAIGON Labour Minister Dam Si Hien acknowledged that about 10,000 Vietnamese workers in American enterprises were thrown out of work and anpther 70,000 — 80,000 would be dismissed before the end of 1971. Every year, 200,000 young people and demobilized soldiers are after jobs.

Persecution of the press

ON December 19, 1970, Thieu-Ky-Khiem agents in an underhand move blew up the office of the paper *Tia Sang*, wounding 3 printers. Representative Ngo Cong Duc, Editor of *Tia Sang*, wrote in an open letter to his readers: "Since the beginning of 1968, *Tia Sang* has been closed down 8 times, 86 issues (now over 100) of its have been confiscated. The editorial board has received 4 threatening letters accompanied with grenades. The Secretary General has been illegally enlisted in the army and sent to the front." "The administration is responsible for all these terroristic measures," the letter concluded.

On January 6 and 7, the issues of 7 Saigon papers were seized on the grounds that they criticized the presence of American and satellite troops in Saigon and denounced the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration's bribing of "Saigon M.P." in connection with the coming "Presidential election."

Sit-in before the Saigon "Lower House"

ON January 1, about 50 relatives of political detainees in Tan Hiep prison carried out a sit-in before the Saigon Lower House to protest against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime's forbidding routine visits, particularly on Christmas and New Year's Days.

No Christmas gifts for orphanages

ON December 25, a delegation of 100 people from various social, religious, political, student and pupil organizations brought Christmas gifts to the Long Thanh orphanage. They were denied entry by the police. They were not allowed to visit the Nhat Chi Mai orphanage either and were even dispersed by the field police. The authorities did not want them to see for themselves the miserable living conditions of the orphans.

21 religious, political, worker, women... organizations eventually protested against the Saigon's arbitrary ban.

Welcoming Spring 1971

FORWARD!

1970 a year of tough confrontation between our people and the US imperialist aggressors has ended with all-round successes for us and with the deterioration of the enemy position.

Forced by its setbacks to de-escalate the war, the United States pushed up 'Vietnamization' in its effort to prolong aggression by "changing the colour of the corpses," and maintain its military occupation of South Viet Nam with peacemeal troop withdrawals. At the same time, it stepped up the "special warfare" in Laos to unprecedented proportions, committed armed aggression in Cambodia and made further adventurous steps toward resuming war against the DRVN, thus spreading hostilities to the whole of Indochina. Those vicious manœuvres of the US warmongers met with heavy counter-blows from the peoples of the three Indochinese countries. While intensifying the war, the American imperialists put forward a "peace" plan with the hope of achieving neo-colonialism in Indochina, an ambition that all US military strength had been unable to fulfil.

On the other hand, the people of South Viet Nam and their armed forces firmly maintained their let-up against US-puppet atrocities, for the withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam, for the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta, for better living conditions and democratic freedoms. The last sanctuaries of the aggressors were shaken to their foundations. US lackeys were torn by bitter strife and the Saigon political scene was in a great turmoil.

On the other hand, the liberated areas were ceaselessly consolidated and extended to the doors of urban centres. Revolutionary power at all levels was established almost everywhere. Guerrilla warfare vigourously expanded, weaving a veritable steel net around US-puppet bases.

The United States war ventures against the DRVN and Nixon's threat to prevent the North Vietnamese from fulfilling their obligations toward their Southern brothers and sisters, were duly dealt with.

Together with us, the Lao people and their armed forces under the able leadership of the Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong, repelled encroachments on the liberated zone and knocked

strategic-offensive posture with unending onslaughts and uprisings in mountain, rural and urban areas. Regular, regional and guerrilla forces harmoniously coordinated their actions, striking the adversary everywhere, knocking down a sizable amount of manpower of the American and Saigon forces, and shattered Abrams' "clear and hold" plan. Simultaneously, they breached the adverse multiperimeter defence system, brought under fire many of their strategic positions such as towns and cities, logistical sectors of importance, thereby further upsetting their battle array. Throughout last year, week after week and month after month, the enemy tried to guess our intentions and cope with them accordingly. Nevertheless, no month, no week passed without stunning strikes of ours at them. This indicated that the initiative was secure in our hands, thanks to the aggregate strength of people's war, our ability to devise methods to get the upper hand of them on every terrain so as to grow stronger during the fighting more capable of keeping up a long and certainly victorious war.

In close coordination with military action, people of all segments staged uprisings, liquidated wicked enemy agents, seized power in important areas, and succeeded in defending the liberated zone, foiling "accelerated pacification" and inflicting initial failures on "special pacification." The patriotic effort of the urban population continually spread. A united front against the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique emerged, involving large social sections. More remarkably, the student and worker movement rose impetuously and without

out a considerable part of Vang Pao's Special Forces, a prop of US "special warfare" in that country, which was a grievous setback for the Nixon doctrine. They enlarged the Front-controlled areas into a single stretch from north to south, and joined them to the liberated areas in Cambodia and South Viet Nam.

The combat of the Khmers under the clearsighted and resolute direction of the National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk at the helm, made rapid advances with great overall successes which took on the significance of a leap forward. This resistance for independence and liberty has sealed the fate of the schemed US extension of the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula.

1970 was also a year of hectic diplomatic activities. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN constantly exposed the obstinate, vicious attitude and stance of the Nixon administration and won over the support of many governments, many democratic, progressive organizations and personalities in the world. The movement of support for the legitimate resistance of the Indochinese peoples, involving progressive Americans, made substantial progress and achieved united action on a world-wide scale.

Following up their 1970 gains, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have entered the year 1971 with the stiffened resolve to fight on until the US invaders quit.

CAMBODIA:

Great victories of the Khmer people

FROM March 18 to December 12, 1970, the Cambodian army and people:

— Put out of action more than 150,000 American, Saigon and Lon Nol puppet troops;

— Wiped out or badly mauled to over 140 battalions or similar size units, liberated seven-tenths of the Cambodian territory with more than 4 million inhabitants.

— At the beginning of the dry season (November and December) 1970, they:

— Put out of action nearly 20,000 enemy troops;

— Wiped out nearly 30 enemy battalions and heavily damaged 3 army columns and brigade headquarters;

— Sank or set ablaze more than 70 war vessels or combat launches;

— Captured or destroyed nearly 200 military vehicles, and shot down over 20 aircraft;

— Seized nearly 200 tons of weapons and 3,000 firearms of various kinds.

Under the impact of those initiadry season successes:

— The US imperialists and their agents' predicament has worsened. The Lon Nol troops in Phnom Penh and many provincial or district capitals have constantly been encircled. The Saigon puppet troops stationed in a number of positions along Highways 1 and 22 have also been beleaguered and isolated.

— The enemy dislodgement operations on the Highway 4 (South-west of Phnom Penh) and Highway 6 (North of Phnom Penh) battlefronts have been beaten off and the traffic on strategic communication lines sealed off.

— Tens of thousands of more people freed, many more places close to Phnom Penh and its surroundings liberated. The liberated areas have been ever more consolidated and joined from East to West and from North to South, into a network of connected positions which surround and separate enemy forces on all battlefields.

LAOS:

1970, A YEAR OF BIG GAINS

IN 1970, the Lao army and people:
— Put out of action nearly 30,000 enemy troops, including 307 officers;

— Shot down 375 US planes, a half time as many as those downed in 1969;

— Wiped out, or inflicted heavy losses on, 40 enemy battalions, among them 2 Thai battalions;

— Captured or destroyed 8,500 firearms of various kinds (as twice as many than in 1969), 238 military vehicles including 15 tanks and 325 radio transmitters of various kinds;

— Burned down 20,000 litres of gasoline.

As a result, the US biggest operation codenamed "Cu Kiet" mounted from August 1969 against the Plain of Jars — Xieng Khoang, in experimentation of the Nixon doctrine in Laos was completely foiled in February 1970.

— Many important strategic areas, including a number of urban centres such as Attopeu, Saravane provincial capitals were recaptured and consolidated, tens of thousands of more inhabitants liberated, the liberated zone was extended from North to South Laos and close to many enemy vital political centres.

— The "special forces" of the US and Vang Pao, the main strategic force of the US "special warfare" strategy in Laos, were trounced, the enemy defensive posture, poor morale and confusion aggravated.

25th Founding Anniversary of the Albanian People's Republic

HAIL THE BROTHERLY ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS!

JAN. 11, 1946. The Albanian People's Republic was founded. This was a historical success of the brotherly Albanian people, which ushered in a new era, the era in which they started building a new society and became masters of their own destiny.

A quarter of century has since elapsed. During this not very long period of time, tremendous changes have taken place in the Land of the Eagle under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour headed by Enver Hoxha. The Albanian people, true heirs of their national hero G.K. Scanderberg and upholding their tradition of revolutionary indomitability, their spirit of self-reliance, their industriousness and inventiveness, increased their 1970 industrial output sixtyfold as compared with 1938. The rise for coal production was 136 times, for chrome 52 times, etc. On Oct. 25, 1970 nationwide electrification was completed 13 months ahead of schedule, operating an overall alteration in the physionomy of rural areas. In defiance of adverse natural conditions, Albania has attained one of her most important targets: self-sufficiency in food grains. As a result of those great achievements, the standard of living of the people has visibly been improved. In 1969, the Albanian State decided a price-cut for a whole series of consumer goods and the cancellation of several kinds of taxes. Medicare has become free of charge.

The South Vietnamese people warmly greet the brotherly Albanian people's gains as their own ones. They are fully aware that the Albanians, who fought bitter and heroic battles against the German and Italian fascists for the safeguard of national independence and freedom, deeply understand the meaning of the South Vietnamese people's national liberation movement in face of US imperialist aggression. The Albanian people, Party and Government have been lending our just cause unqualified material, moral and political support. This has contributed to the success of the South Vietnamese people. Meetings and rallies, talks and exhibitions on Viet Nam, "Weeks of Solidarity with Viet Nam" organized in all parts of the Land of Eagle over the past years have elicited a warm response from Albanians of all walks of life. Recent commemorations of the founding anniversaries of the NFL and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government were fresh expressions of this valuable support for which we express our heartfelt gratitude.

Voicing the South Vietnamese people's sentiments on this 25th founding anniversary of the Albanian People's Republic, the message addressed by Presidents Nguyen Huu Tho and Huynh Tan Phat to the Party and State leaders of Albania said: "We wish the brotherly Albanian People even greater successes in the building and defence of their land, which will be an active contribution to the common effort against imperialism, for independence, democracy, peace and social progress."

South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Delegation Attends the 7th IJO Congress

THE 7th Congress of the International Journalists' Organization opened on January 4 in Havana, Cuba. Some 300 delegates, observers and guests from nearly 90 countries were present. Among the hosts attending the opening session was Mr Raul Roy, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba who delivered the welcome address.

Mr Ly Van Sau, chief delegate of the South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Association, submitted a report to the Jan. 6 plenary session. After extending warm greetings to the fraternal people of Cuba and expressing sincere gratitude to the peoples and journalists the world over for their sympathy and staunch support to the resistance of the South Vietnamese people against American aggression, the South Viet Nam spokesman made a systematic survey of the latter's military, political and diplomatic achievements, and made clear the losing posture in all fields and utter isolation of the US invaders and their hirelings Thieu-Ky-Khiem. He severely condemned US brazen invasion of Cambodia, step-up of "special warfare" in Laos, which escalated hostilities to the whole of Indochina, its recent bombing of populated areas in North Viet Nam and threat to undertake further acts of war against the DRVN. Mr Ly Van Sau also unmasked the Nixon administration's "Vietnamization" which is nothing short of a prolongation of the war and the illegal occupation of South Viet Nam by American troops. He exposed US lack of seriousness at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and blocking of the talks.

The report of the South Vietnamese delegate clearly voiced the legimate aspirations and earnest claims of the South Vietnamese people embodied in the 10-point overall solution and 8-point initiative of the NFL and the PRG. Nixon's so-called 5-point peace initiative was also analysed and scored.

It gave a sharp picture of press activities in the liberated and US-occupied zones of South Viet Nam, showing the valuable contributions of patriotic and democratic journalists and of all those who really mean, with their pens, to serve the cause of national salvation. The US aggressors and the quisling Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration was denounced and flayed for their extremely brutal repression of the press, their cynical violation of the freedom of the press, freedom of speech, the freedom of journalists to carry out their professional activities in Saigon and other occupied areas.

In conclusion, the head of the South Vietamese delegation said: "It is our hope that our dear colleagues the world over, with their pungent pens and inventive minds, will help our journalists in the aforesaid task. It is our hope that, for the sake of peace and justice, for the sake of independence and liberty of oppressed peoples, you will in your newspapers and over your radios, join forces with us so that the messages we utter out of hatred, for the triumph of justice, and our tidings of victory may dispel the darkness in which US psywar specialists attempt to wrap public opinion..."

The speech of the Head of the South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Association was attentively listened to by the delegates and greeted with loud and prolonged applauses.

On January 5, the delegates sitting in plenary session most warmly received the message of greeting sent to the Congress by Mr Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutinary Government of the RSVN.

For an Everlasting Spring

AFTER a fruitful winter, we, in South Viet Nam are welcoming in a pregnant spring, when the sunshine floods the apricot blossoms with gold, when we recall to mind with pride such exalting names of mountains, rivers, places and people as:

Indomitable Tri-Thien,
Heroic 5th Interzone,
The Brasswall of the South...

On the eve of Tet, in all battlefields from the hilly areas to the plains and urban centres, the liberation fighters, guerillas, or self-defence troops, before going to their fighting trenches, will give a last check to their kits and stick to the muzzle of their guns or pin on their chest a sprig of apricot blossom, bearing in mind this pledge: "Fight on until not a single aggressor is left in our country" and preserve spring for their lives and their land.

I still remember the day — it was late in spring 1965 — when the US aggressors landed by tens of thousands on the beaches of Da Nang, Chu Lai, Cam Ranh; it was springtime and everything looked green: the fruit-gardens, the sugar cane field, coco-tree field. Some GIs cried out: "What a beautiful land! Even our Florida and Miami are no match for it!"

In the eyes of these overbearing aggressive imperialists having a huge economic potential and an "inconceivable" military might, the soil on which they just set foot had nothing formidable.

Crack divisions poured in one after another — the 4th Infantry Division, the Oregon shock force the First Air Mobile Division, the 109th and 101st Brigades, of the US expeditionary forces, and the "White Horse," "Blue Dragon," "King Cobra," "Black Tiger" units from US satellite — bringing from 200,000 to 500,000 the swarms of GIs and mercenary troops in our country.

Our hearts were wrung by the sight of this rape of our land. It made our blood boil: we swore to die for our motherland to live.

At that time, during an enemy raid at a small village in the province of Quang Nam, old man Choi stuck his knife in the ground and bawled at an aggressor: "This is Viet Nam, the land of President Ho!"

When a Yankee set fire to his hut, the old man pulled up his knife and gave the GI a slash, calling on his co-villagers: "Kill all the aggressors and traitors to the country!" His shout and those of the 14 millions of our fellow-countrymen, conjured up a storm. The green fields and majestic mountains suddenly turned red and were transformed into a sea of flames which consumed the enemy.

Our villages built for ages from the southern bank of the Ben Hai river to the Ca Mau cape, have been hit by a deluge of bombs, shells, hardware, toxic chemicals. White terror and murders take place frequently as at My Lai, Thu Duc or in "tiger cages." Riceplants have been uprooted and coco-trees charred. However on this martyred land, rice continues to grow and apricot trees to bloom in spring. Greenness cover the four fifths of the areas in the South, from the Ben Hai River to Ca Mau peninsula, passing through the Perfume River, Da Lat, Cam Ranh, Hue, Saigon, the Bassac River.

Springs succeed one another and the slogan "Fight till the Yankees quit and the quislings topple" keeps ringing in our ears with the result that in these years the GIs, satellite mercenaries and puppet troops have suffered 420,000 casualties.

In spring, millions of coco-trees in Binh Dinh, Ben Tre, far from being killed by enemy raids and chemical sprayings, give shelter to millions of the younger ones growing swiftly at their feet, under the protection of tens of thousands of heroic liberation fighters.

In spring, such beauty spots as *Thien Thai* mount, *Non Nuoc* pagoda, *Ngu Hanh* mount, *Son Tra* island, *Cam Ranh* bay, *Cam Ly* stream, *Ba Den* mount, and *Phu Quoc* island cannot welcome tourists and pilgrims because they are still in the hands of the enemy; but no amount of bombs, shells, toxic chemicals dropped by the US can destroy the forests of *Sanu, Ho Lac, Ho To Tung* in the Western High Plateaux, the *Truong Son* range, the *Mekong Delta* or the virgin jungle at *Tay Ninh, Long Khanh;* and in South Viet Nam millions and millions of bamboo spikes are set in traps: the d'rao birds continue to chirp, the xylophones of the highlanders to play and the precious timber trees to grow in springtime.

IN South Viet Nam, the vigour of spring is not only reflected in the rose-shaped badges sported by the heroes of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, but also is turned into the physical and moral strength of 14 million South Vietnamese who give to the Front their best, to "oust the US aggressors and overthrow the quislings." This army has shown its effectiveness in the springs of the *Mau Than* and *Ky Dau* years and is making preparations to greet the *Tan Hoi* Spring in. In compliance with the last instructions of President Ho Chi Minh, the venerated great leader of our people: "We must fight on until not a single aggressor is left in our country," we do our best to keep Spring evergreen in our free and independent land.

M P

THE SWEET AMONG SWEETS

IN BRIEF

* "The total pullout of the US troops from South Viet Nam is something unavoidable," declared *Chairman AN Kossygin* of the USSR Council of Ministers in his recent answer to *Journal Asahi Shimbun*. "A fair and effective basis for a settlement of the Viet Nam problem," he continued, "is the proposals by the RSVN and the DRVN Governments for first of all the US withdrawal from South Viet Nam, to create normal conditions for a general election and reach a political solution in South Viet Nam."

* On the occasion of the visit of a NFL delegation attending its 10th founding anniversary celebrations in the German Democratic Republic, Mr *Hermann Axen*, Polit-Bureau member and Secretary general of the Central Committee of the *German United Socialist Party* reiterated once again unqualified support to the 10-point overall solution put forth by the NFL and the PRG of South Viet Nam and demanded an end to the US war of aggression as well as the total withdrawal of the US troops before June 30, 1971.

* In interviews with SVNR ambassadors to Hungary and Poland, *Foreign Vice-Ministers Imre Hollai and Winiewicz* of the abovesaid countries strongly condemned the US chemical war in South Viet Nam and the US-puppets' atrocities against detained South Vietnamese patriots.

* On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL, *Secretary General of Yemen National Liberation Front Abdul Fattah Ismail* cabled to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho an expression of the Yemen people's strong support to the South Viet Nam people's just resistance to US aggression.

* The *Nicaragua National Liberation Front (Sandino)* also sent a message of congratulations to the South Viet Nam NFL which said: "The Vietnamese people's struggle is the Nicaragua people's too. We pledge ourselves to fight side by side with the heroic sons of Viet Nam."

* Occasioned by the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL, a "Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam" was organized in *Yugoslavia* Thousands of people of various strata have participated in exhibitions, meetings on Viet Nam and money collections for Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION